

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 245813

55

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 /016 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN

USGS:HFLEMING

----- 038489

R 021040Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS STATE 245813

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, GT

SUBJECT:U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT  
RESEARCH IN GUATEMALAN PETROLEUM FIELD

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM U.S.  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. U.S.G.S. STATES THAT ALL DATA REALIZED  
FROM THIS PROJECT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOG.  
UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES SOME OBJECTIONS, OR NEED FOR ADDI-  
TIONAL INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS YOU SEEK GOG CON-  
CURRENCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "WE (USGS) WOULD LIKE TO CONDUCT BASIC AND  
FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH ON SURFACE GEOCHEMICAL MANIFESTATIONS  
OF THE PETROLEUM OCCURENCE AT THE RUBELSANTO OIL FIELD,  
GUATEMALA. THIS WORK WILL BE DONE IN COLLABORATION WITH  
SHENANDOAH OIL CORP. WHO HOLDS THE CONCESSION RIGHTS AND IS  
CURRENTLY DEVELOPING THE FIELD.

"OUR STUDIES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAVE HAD AS THEIR  
PRIMARY OBJECTIVE THE DEFINITION OF A GEOCHEMICAL BASIS FOR  
REMOTE SENSING OF PETROLEUM FROM BOTH SPACE AND AIRBORNE  
PLATFORMS. DATA FROM WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES  
SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A LATITUDINAL CONTROL ON THE GEO-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 245813

CHEMICAL PROCESSES RESULTING FROM PETROLEUM MICROSEEPAGE.

HOWEVER, WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE SUFFICIENT GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD TO CONFIRM THIS SUGGESTION. WE HOPE TO FURTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR/OR AGAINST THE HYPOTHESIS BY GATHERING DATA FROM OVER KNOWN OIL PRODUCTION IN GUATEMALA AND LATER ON, ALASKA. THE RUBELSANTO FIELD IS IDEAL BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY DISCOVERED AND IS STILL BEING DEVELOPED. HENCE, IT IS NEARLY IN A PRISTINE STATE WITHOUT THE OFTEN GEOCHEMICALLY DEVASTING (SIC) EFFECTS OF THE MASSIVE CULTURAL OVERPRINT ASSOCIATED WITH LONG TERM PRODUCTION. SHENANDOAH'S REPRESENTATIVES HAVE AGREED TO SHARE GEOPHYSICAL AND WELL-DATA.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THESE STUDIES SOMETIME AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, THE PRECISE TIME FRAME TO BE DETERMINED BY CLIMATOLOGICAL CONDITIONS. PRESUMABLY OUR STUDIES WILL TAKE 2-4 WEEKS, POSSIBLY A LITTLE LONGER. FEBRUARY-MARCH 1977 ARE TENTATIVE TARGET DATES. WE PLAN TO CONDUCT LOW LEVEL REMOTE SENSING EXPERIMENTS FROM A U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNED AIRCRAFT (CESSNA 337, N67136). ON BOARD, SENSORS INCLUDE AN AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MATTER SAMPLER AND A FRAUNHOFER LINE DISCRIMINATOR. FIELD STUDIES WILL INCLUDE GROUND SAMPLING OF GEOLOGIC MATERIALS AND SOIL GASES. OUR CONTINGENT WILL CONSIST OF FOUR USGS SCIENTISTS, A PILOT AND INSTRUMENT OPERATOR, AND ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MATTER SAMPLER'S MANUFACTURER. OUR TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SHENANDOAH WILL PROVIDE US WITH LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND OUR AIRCRAFT WILL OPERATE FROM ONE OF THE COMPANY'S AIRSTRIPS AT OR NEAR THE OIL FIELD. PRESUMABLY THEY WILL OFFER A COMPANY OBSERVER.

"ALL DATA COLLECTED WILL, OF COURSE, BE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND RELEASED THROUGH NORMAL PUBLICATION CHANNELS.

"YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING GOG APPROVAL FOR THIS STUDY WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED." END TEXT. ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, PETROLEUM, TEXT, GEOLOGIC SURVEYS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE245813  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MJPLATT  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760373-0416  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761088/aaaacynn.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 AUG 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 AUG 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <14 DEC 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN GUATEMALAN PETROLEUM FIELD  
**TAGS:** TPHY, GT, USGS  
**To:** GUATEMALA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006